

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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A SIGN OF OUR TIME.

The "News" is in receipt of clippings from two English newspapers, both of which are devoted to the beliefs and practices of the Latter-day Saints. One is *The Hertfordshire Standard*, and the other is *The Advertiser and Times*. They are both noteworthy on account of the evident fairness with which the reporters treat the subject.

There is a marked change in this direction. There are some inveterate enemies, as incapable of forgetting the past as of following the steady march of progress, who still tramp with weary tread the old, squeaking mill of vilification and abuse, but intelligent men and women everywhere commence to realize that "Mormonism" commands attention for what it is, and for what it is accomplishing. And the honorable men and women do not hesitate to say so.

Only the other day a visitor to this city, in a public address, admitted that, previous to his arrival in Utah, he had an idea that "Mormonism" was a monstrosity, and that its adherents—a motley, freckled, and maimed specimens of humanity. He had found, however, the exact opposite of this. He had met intelligence, liberality, happiness, contentment and hospitality, and he assured his hearers that in the future, he, for one, would say nothing but good of the people here. This disposition, to treat "Mormonism" in a fair and Christian spirit is quite marked at present.

The Latter-day Saints rightly see in this a sign auguring well for the future. Our Lord on one occasion was notified that certain strangers desired to be introduced to Him. To the ordinary eye there was not much significance in that incident, but to the Master it was different. To Him that in itself trivial occurrence suggested that, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified," for He saw, undoubtedly, in these strangers, or "Greeks" as they are called, the representatives of the world outside Judaism, and in their desire for instruction the beginning of world-wide dominion of the Gospel of love, peace, and righteousness.

The desire of so many at the present time, to interview our Elders abroad, or to come to the mountain valleys to see for themselves the fruits of the Gospel, may appear to many as insignificant events, but if the signs of the time are read correctly, they indicate that the hour is coming, in which He, whom the Prophet Joseph and his successors proclaimed, shall be universally acknowledged among all nations, kindreds and tongues.

PHILIPPINE CONDITIONS.

The report of Major General MacArthur on the conditions in the Philippine Islands, covering a period from October, 1900, to the beginning of July, this year, is satisfactory, in the main. It shows that the rebel forces have been broken up and that peace prevails in most of the provinces, particularly since the capture of Aguinaldo, which he regards as the most momentous single event of the year.

The effect of the work done by the American soldiers is portrayed in the figures presented, and this is, perhaps, best appreciated, if compared with the results achieved by the much more numerous British army operating in South Africa. At the same time the enormous quantities of arms and ammunition captured, and the great numbers of killed, wounded, or surrendered, give an adequate idea of the magnitude of the rebellion that confronted our troops.

The report further shows that all trouble is not yet over. A well organized army and navy must still be maintained, since anything calculated to impede the activity or reduce the efficiency of these instruments in the immediate future, will put in jeopardy the entire future of American possibilities in the archipelago. And this, no doubt, is true.

It is known from authentic reports that there is in existence a secret organization, of a rebellious and murderous nature, to which the armed hostility to the United States is mainly ascribed. This society, the *Katipunan*, was organized in 1892, at Manila, ostensibly to promote the political, social and moral elevation of the Tagal race. The real object, however, was opposition to the Spanish rule. The society grew rapidly. In 1896, its membership, it is said, was estimated at from 12,000 to 15,000. The initiation ceremonies were solemn and terrifying and were designed to impress the candidate and test his courage. After various tests had been applied the candidate signed an oath, using, in place of ink, blood taken from his left forearm. The members of the society were supplied with copies of "The Rights of Man" and a history of the French Revolution. They also studied treatises on military tactics and on the manufacture of gun

powder and dynamite. The organization later was utilized by the Filipino leaders.

Colonel Kennon, now on duty in the islands, describes this organization as a society "dedicated to assassination," as an organization which, "without sanction of law or authority, exercised the power of punishing by death any person who disobeyed its mandates." The Filipinos were forbidden under pain of death, to accept office under Americans, although at this period, according to Colonel Kennon, the American occupation was complete throughout the archipelago. Every town and province had its dual set of officers—those elected under the American laws and the secret appointees of the "Katipunan." Natives who aided the Americans were murdered—neither sex nor age being spared. Friendly natives were slain by hundreds—perhaps by thousands—declares Colonel Kennon. The "Katipunan" has not resisted the military forces of the United States. Its victims have been exclusively natives, and it has succeeded in terrorizing them to an extraordinary degree. Even under the very eyes of the military authorities it has inflicted vengeance on those marked out for punishment. In every village are the agents of the society, quick to detect any friendship by the natives towards the Americans. For fear of their own lives the Filipinos dare not refuse to obey "Katipunan" mandates, for "Katipunan" vengeance is swift and sure.

General MacArthur probably refers to this organization when he mentions the work of "secret committees" who collected contributions and inflicted punishments, in the interests of opposition to the Americans. It is clear that as long as such secret organizations exist, the greatest vigilance must be exercised. There must be no power in the islands carrying on such nefarious work. One of the first considerations is the protection of life and property, and any society that is a menace to these must be suppressed. There will be work for the military, as long as that organization shows a spark of life. But the pacification is going on, and in time every vestige of rebellion, grown primarily out of Spanish oppression, will vanish, and contentment and happiness rule everywhere.

CARICATURE IS NOT TRUTH.

We notice in the *Preston Standard*, that that enterprising village has recently been favored with the visit of "Christian" missionaries, who have undertaken to enlighten the people there about the doctrines of "Mormonism" by means of literature.

There is not much to be said against that. This is a free country, and within certain well understood limitations, each individual is at liberty to employ his time as he sees fit. Considerable means, we believe, have been collected back east for this sheep wagon mission, and the generous donors naturally expect some kind of report concerning the use of their money. Some effort has to be made to prove that the solicitations were made in good faith.

But does it not strike all concerned that, if the intention is to enlighten anyone on "Mormonism" it is ridiculous and absurd in the extreme to distribute tracts compiled by narrow-minded bigots who, by reason of their prejudices, understand "Mormon" theology about as much as a bat comprehends a painting by Raphael? It is generally conceded that the most self-evident truths of Christianity can find no lodging in the heart of an infidel, until that heart is completely changed, just as little as the rays of the sun can penetrate into a room, as long as all openings are closed and the blinds down. It is so with "Mormonism" and agnostics relative to that faith. The latter cannot comprehend the system, much less give a true statement of its doctrines.

We would recommend these self-evident truths to the sheep wagon missionaries and others who are engaged in "exposing" this faith. "Mormonism" has its standards of faith. It has the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price. With these, "Mormonism" stands or falls. Grotesque caricatures of "Mormonism" are not "Mormonism." Such pictures may be ridiculed and otherwise assailed, but the truth itself remains forever.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

It is bad for nations to lose the friendship of nations as it is bad for men to lose the friendship of men. For a century America had no better friend in Europe than Russia, and during the dark days of the civil war when a friend in need was a friend indeed she was our friend. She still is but there are not wanting signs that the historic friendship is not quite so cordial as it once was. There are other than political reasons for this if what an American lady visiting St. Petersburg writes to a friend of "Listener's" of the Boston Transcript. This lady writes:

"When I was here before (in 1882), Madame R. always introduced me as an American, which seemed to insure me a particularly cordial reception. People asked many questions about America, and spoke with admiration and enthusiasm about the United States. I noticed the first time I was in company after my arrival on this visit, that Madame R. made no allusion to my being an American, and also that any mention of the United States did not arouse as much interest as formerly. After our guests were gone I laughingly asked Madame R. if Americans were no longer in good favor in St. Petersburg."

"Well, my dear," she replied, "if they are not, you have to thank your countryman, George Kennan, chief of the American consulate here. He is generally of Madame R.'s opinion, and think that Mr. Kennan hardly did the fair thing. He came to Russia first several years ago in connection with some engineering plan by which it was proposed to connect England and America by telegraph wires by way of Siberia. Every opportunity and facility was afforded him by the Russian government. The success of the Atlantic cable ended all those projects, but one result of Kennan's trip was his book 'Tent Life in Siberia,' a work I think entirely complimentary to Russia and her institutions. Then engaged by the Century publishers to write up the exile system, he came to Russia and from his previous acquaintance and evident predilections he received every advantage and attention, and went to Siberia fortified by letters and introductions, official, friendly, and powerful, to see and learn

everything that was to be seen and heard. The question presents itself, did he use these opportunities in the friendly spirit in which they were granted? No wonder he trembled and was fearful that he would have trouble in getting out of the country with the manuscripts and papers and notes and illustrations that he had amassed. It is rumored that he plans another visit to Russia, but Madame R. thinks he would hardly have the effrontery to come."

Whether Mr. Kennan abused the hospitality extended him by the Russian government and whether he has violated any ethical code, we do not pretend to say, but if his Century articles on the Siberian system have caused Russia to look with coldness and suspicion upon Americans and to treat them less cordially than formerly, then these articles have done far more harm than good for while they drew the world's attention to the infamy of Russia's exile system there is no reason to believe that they have in any way modified the treatment of the exiles or modified the system itself.

The case cited by "Listener" is but one, yet a straw sometimes tells which way the wind blows. The thing now to be feared is that the commercial policies pursued by the two countries may come in conflict and induce retaliatory measures on either side. A stray traveler from America's shores can never produce the same bad effect that retaliatory or hostile legislation does no matter what his offense or how aggravated. He always remains the individual, while legislation ever represents the country.

KICKERS OF OLD.

A writer in the Philadelphia Times has hunted up some items about one of the ancestors of Edgar S. MacLay, the gentleman who has made himself famous as a writer of naval history and a critic of Admiral Schley. The ancestor in question seems to have been chosen in 1785 as one of the representatives of Pennsylvania to the U. S. Senate. In this position he distinguished himself, according to the Times historian, as a most vigorous kicker. He was dissatisfied with everything and everybody, including the American Constitution and George Washington. With-out any compunction he hurled vile epithets at his colleagues and ridiculed honest and patriotic folks. He kept a journal, and this furnishes the Times with evidence of his disposition.

The following is quoted from the Philadelphia Times:

"Another time he accused Washington of wishing, 'to tread on the necks of the Senate' over some Indian treaty; but his bitterest words came out in December, 1790, while the Senate was still sitting in New York City. The President at that time—as well as later, when the capital was removed to Philadelphia—held ceremonial levees. These MacLay denounced as 'trappings of royalty, and, in an angry fit, said: 'Republicans are borne down by fashion and a fear of being charged with a want of respect to General Washington. If there is treason in the wish I would retract it; but I would to God this same General Washington were in heaven! We then would not have him brought forward as the constant cover to every unconstitutional and irreparable act.'"

For the Vice President, John Adams, MacLay has no kinder observations. On one occasion he says:

"I have really often looked at him with surprise mingled with contempt when he is in the chair and no business before the Senate. Instead of that sedate, easy air which I would have him possess he will look on one side, then on the other, then down on the laps of his breeches, then dangle his visage with the most silly kind of half smile which I cannot well express in English. God forgive me for the vile thought—but I cannot help thinking of a monkey just put into breeches."

"Again, while MacLay was addressing the house, the Pennsylvania senator caught Mr. Adams, the presiding officer, snuffing up his nose, kicking his heels and talking and sniggering with Otis."

"The Constitution of the United States he feared would 'turn out the vilest of all traps that ever were set to ensnare the freedom of an unsuspecting people.' At first friendly with his colleague, Mr. Morris, he soon came to distrust him, and abused him roundly, as he did nearly every one else. When the time came to move to Philadelphia, he spoke of the strange infatuation of self-love among the people of the city. 'To tell the truth,' he said, 'I know no such unsocial city as Philadelphia. The gloomy severity of the Quakers has prescribed all fashionable dress and amusement. Denying themselves these enjoyments, they, as much as in them lies, endeavor to deprive others of them also; while, at the same time, there are not in the world more scornful or insolent characters than the wealthy among them.'"

This may partly explain the virulence of the attack of the present MacLay upon the Admiral, but does it excuse it? An apple may not be responsible for not falling far from the tree that bore it, but in human affairs there is no law of gravitation that compels a child to repeat the mistakes of parents. If there were, there could be no progress in what is good. The perfectibility of the human race would then be merely a dream.

One campaign song in Iowa this year will likely be "Cummings through the rye."

In Paris the man in the balloon has taken the place of the man on horseback. Santos Dumont is the hero of the day in the gay city.

The discovery has been made that castor beans will drive mosquitoes away. Castor beans upon the water and after many days the mosquitoes will not return.

"Fighting Bob" Evans calls ex-Secretary of the Navy Chandler an "insect." Has he been reading Byron who says, "Men are but the maggots of some huge earth's burial?"

The Paterson, N. J. anarchists declare that they have been misrepresented, that they never intended to give the play "The Assassination of King Humbert I." Then it is true that sometimes the devil is not so black as he is painted.

When the powers have got through imposing conditions and terms upon China that country will be in much the same condition as a grasshopper whose wings and legs little wanton boys have pulled off. About all she will be able to do is to die after long and painful suffering.

Rhode Island has a gypsy moth scare, a colony of some five acres in

extent having been discovered at Providence. They are supposed to have come from Massachusetts, possibly planted by some evil-minded person. Will Rhode Island encourage their propagation by offering a reward for their destruction as Massachusetts did?

Lord Kitchener has just issued a proclamation which declares that "all commandants, field cornets and leaders of armed bands, and still engaged in resisting his majesty's forces, whether in the Orange colony, the Transvaal or other portion of his majesty's South African dominions, and all members of the late governments of the Orange Free State and Transvaal shall, unless they surrender before Sept. 15, be permanently banished from South Africa." His lordship has, apparently, forgotten that it is necessary to catch the hare before cooking it.

A distressing story comes from New York, that of a young Italian immigrant, a girl, named Antonia Paratore. When she reached New York she was light-hearted and happy. She had friends there and went to live with them, filled with ideas of good fortune and wealth in store in the new world. But homesickness attacked her and she was soon a victim of extreme melancholia. Deserted by her friends, she became an inmate of Bellevue hospital. The order for deportation followed. When the unfortunate woman was taken to the dock she was a mental wreck and only a shadow of her former self. The officials insisted on putting her on the ship. The physician said she would undoubtedly die on the voyage. A great wrong has been done that poor girl and chiefly by her friends who deserted her. It was they who, by their desertion of her, made her a mental wreck. Her deportation now seems a hardship. If she was properly admitted to this country, and presumably she was, how come it she can now be properly deported? She seems to be a victim of harsh circumstances.

Before the Oxford university extension delegates the Right Hon. Robert Henry Asquith has just made a sweeping plea for "purer English." It is a plea made every now and then but it is hard to say whether it finds any response or produces any appreciable results. It would be a pretty hard matter for those who are making demands for "purer English" to define just what they mean by the term. The English of Chaucer's time is not that of her day the English of the day of Addison and Pope and Swift, nor is the English of these latter that of Johnson and Gibbon, while there is not that of Carlyle and Emerson, Arnold and Newman. Does not this demand for "purer English" really mean a demand for a more careful and better style, the foundation for which must be close and clear thinking? There is no country in the world where all writers have such style as they do in France, and there no plea is made for "purer French." And this doubtless is so because they have the style. Let all writers of English get style and the "purer English" will follow.

RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Dr. Osgood in Sunday School Times.

The revision under King James, 1611, followed a hundred years of repeated revisions. That revision was an admirable work of high scholarship in Hebrew, Greek, and English. But so great has been the change in the meaning and usage of words that many translations, accurate in their day, now misrepresent the Hebrew and Greek, as well as the English, of these hundred years ago. "Prevent" then meant to go before, meet; now it means to hinder. "Let" then signified to hinder; now it means to permit. "Lust" then, as in German now, meant pure pleasure, desire, joy; now it breathes vile passion.

Ethical Advocate.

We feel that the spirit of liberty and tolerance contained in the Constitution of the United States and laws of the state of Ohio, and the gospel liberty conferred by the Son of God upon all His true ministers, demand the appeal be made from a decision which brands the "noise" which is the fruitage of the preaching of a full gospel as "disorderly conduct," and prohibits an innocent man contrary to evidence. We ask all the readers of this paper to pray that God's will in the matter may be done, that the mistake made may be, as far as possible, rectified, and glorified, humanity blessed, and the kingdom of heaven thereby advanced.

Northwestern Christian Advocate.

That the "dime novel is better than the Sunday school or church hymnal" depends upon the particular novel and upon the particular hymnal. It is conceivable that some dime novels might be better than some two-dollar novels which (whether because of the price—who knows?) are usually spoken of as "literature." Judgments of the "omnibus" sort carry nothing with them save doubt as to the author's competency to form judgments of any valuable sort.

The Christian Statesman.

Reasonable and thoughtful men know that Sabbath breaking produces immorality. The Sabbath with its religious observances is the chief institution for the development of the moral nature. To secularize it means, to say the least, to neglect moral training. No amount of physical, mental or esthetic culture can become a suitable substitute for morality. We are rapidly raising our standard in many respects. The standard of living today is in advance of anything our ancestors ever dreamed of. Our educational standard is very high and is rapidly becoming higher. In music and other fine arts and accomplishments we are becoming classical. Symmetrical development requires that the moral nature be developed likewise. The state should enforce the Sabbath law against nature, to neglect moral training, that all unnecessary public time will find its proper scope in promoting moral and religious improvement.

P. J. Mahaffy in Nineteenth Century.

The Roman Catholic and the Dissenter will presently lie down together like the lion and the lamb, and, indeed, a little child, but their material interests will lead them. They will discover that jealousy and bigotry is inferior to prosperity, and therefore with happiness, and they will turn to industry and commerce to make themselves and their country rich, and therefore respected. The ex-dominant class, so far as they are enlightened, will fit themselves to their altered circumstances; so far as they are ignorant, and therefore irreconcilable, they will disappear. The energies now directed to political agitation with a grievous waste of public time will find their proper scope in promoting social and industrial reform.

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS



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